

something we really need to grant a work visa for?

Our immigration policies are simply out of control. We have hit a record number of immigrants coming into the country. In fact, so many are coming in that people with criminal records are getting by like they were moving through a sieve. We are filling the country with anybody with any excuse or reason who wants to come. People like Mr. Kansi are getting in by lying, false records, or whatever they want to present. They wind up here one way or another and we simply refuse to send them out.

Our immigration policies are out of control and people are coming without being examined, without being checked. They are here. The World Trade Center bombing is an example. The shooting at the Empire State Building is another. The CIA killing in 1993 is another. All of these acts were committed by people that were willingly let into this country. How many instances does it take like this before we have the common sense to change the immigration laws that we are letting wreck this country?

I think we need to take a hard look at the laws and determine if we are letting people into this country that are prone to commit terrorist acts against the Nation once they get here.

One of the basic problems, of course, with immigration is that we have a more-than-generous welfare system—more than generous. People are coming into this country not to work, but to sit down. They are coming here to become part of our welfare system, not to become part of our work force. When we attempted to change our welfare laws and cut off cash assistance to non-citizens, the Congress got frightened, and we decided it was being too harsh not to give cash money to noncitizens. How cruel could we be not to hand out cash to an illegal noncitizen? We have perpetrated an immigration system that is out of control.

Madam President, we know that there are many people who want to be Americans. Many people want to come here and make a contribution to the United States. We have a long history of immigration. We are all descendants of immigrants from somewhere at one time, except Native Americans. But somewhere we have gone wrong. At one point, people came to this country to work and to labor and be a part of it. But now they come to be a part of charity. I think we began to go wrong when we lost common sense in our immigration policies.

Madam President, I think the problem began when we lost common sense altogether in the Government, and particularly with the welfare programs supporting the things that these people were coming for. Why should we give noncitizens welfare? Why should the Federal Government punish a county or town if they don't print documents in languages other than English? Madam President, we do that.

Why do we have pages and pages of legislative language just to define the word "work." I think anybody that has done a day's work would not need 14 pages of legalese language to describe it. Madam President, again, I want to thank the agents with the CIA and the FBI that played a role in bringing this man back to the United States. They represent what is best about the country. But the immigration laws that allowed Mr. Kansi to get into this country and to stay here represent the worst.

I thank the Chair and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER [Mr. FAIRCLOTH]. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. SPECTER pertaining to the introduction of S. 934 and S. 935 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

In the absence of any other Senator present, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANTORUM). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DENYING VETERANS BENEFITS IN CAPITAL CASES

Mr. SPECTER. First, Mr. President, I would like to update my colleagues on our efforts to have an amendment on veterans benefits occasioned by the conviction of Timothy McVeigh who does have veterans benefits. We have been working to put the legislation in final form, and I think we are now very close to it. If we can accomplish that, we still have time today to introduce the bill and, I think, to get a rollcall vote on it. That will be the final call, obviously, of our majority leader, Senator LOTT, but I do think we have a chance to do that.

(The remarks of Mr. SPECTER pertaining to the submission of Senate Resolution 102 are located in today's RECORD under "Submissions of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I yield the floor in the absence of any other Senator seeking recognition and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DENYING VETERANS BENEFITS IN FEDERAL CAPITAL OFFENSES

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of our distinguished majority leader, Senator LOTT, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 923, and I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 923.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 923) to deny veterans benefits to persons convicted of Federal capital offenses.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 414

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, there is an amendment at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER] proposes an amendment numbered 414.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 1, lines 4 and 5, strike "or star".

Mr. SPECTER. During the pendency of this bill, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that 5 minutes be allotted to Senator NICKLES for debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, at this time I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays are ordered on final passage of the bill.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, this bill would amend existing law to deny benefits to veterans who have been convicted of a Federal capital offense. Current law denies such benefits to veterans convicted of Federal crimes, such as sabotage, treason, and sedition, but not murder.

I offer this bill on behalf of myself and my distinguished colleague from New Jersey, Senator TORRICELLI, and also Senator BYRD, Senator NICKLES, Senator INHOFE, Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator CAMPBELL, and the distinguished Presiding Officer, Senator SANTORUM.

Mr. President, yesterday I was informed by staff in the Veterans' Affairs Committee, which I chair, that there is a gap in the law which allows Mr. Timothy McVeigh to be entitled to veterans benefits notwithstanding his murder of 168 persons, and his conviction